

APPENDIX D

to Consent Judgment in the matter of
United States v. Coltec Industries, Inc., et al.,
relating to the Liberty Industrial Finishing Superfund Site

CONCEPTUAL DESIGN DOCUMENT

001910_EN16_02-B1799

**Conceptual Design for a Fish
Ladder at Massapequa Lake
Oyster Bay, Nassau County
New York**

May 2006

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Table of Contents

Section	Page
1 Introduction	1-1
2 Summary of Agreement in Consent Judgment	2-1
3 Description of Existing Site Conditions	3-1
4 Design Considerations	4-1
4.1 Target Species/Seasonal Use	4-1
4.2 Fish Ladder Slope	4-2
4.3 Depth of Water	4-2
4.4 Other Considerations	4-2
5 Proposed Plan	5-1
6 Next Steps and Schedule	6-1
7 Permit Requirements	7-1
8 References	8-1
 Appendix	
A Construction Size Drawings	A-1

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List of Figures

Figure		Page
1	Fish Passage Project Area, Massapequa Lake, Oyster Bay, Nassau County, New York.....	3-3
2	Photographs of Western Spillway at Massapequa Lake and Box Culverts at Merrick Road Bridge	3-5

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List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

EEEPC	Ecology and Environment Engineering, P.C.
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NRD	Natural Resource Damage
NYSDEC	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
PRP	Potential Responsible Party
SEQR	State Environmental Quality Review Act
USDOJ	United States Department of Justice
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service

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1

Introduction

On August 30, 2005, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) of the United States Department of Commerce, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) on behalf of the Department of the Interior, and in consultation with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) (collectively, “the Trustees”) prepared a Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment (RPEA), along with a Finding of No Significant Impact under the National Environmental Policy Act. The RPEA concluded that the construction of a fish ladder would restore anadromous fish passage from the Massapequa Tidal Channel to the Massapequa Lake, resulting in access to approximately 40 acres of freshwater habitat. Nassau County has also proposed installation of fish ladders at Massapequa Lake in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the *Massapequa Preserve Streamflow Augmentation and Pond Restoration*, which was finalized in April 2004 under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR).



1. Introduction

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2

Summary of Agreement in Consent Judgment

The Settling Defendants to the Liberty Industrial Finishing Site Natural Resource Damages Consent Judgment ("NRD CJ") will, through their contractors, design and install one Alaska steepass fish ladder (or equivalent), a marine-grade aluminum structure through which target anadromous fish (blue-back herring [*Alosa aestivalis*] and alewife [*Alosa pseudoharengus*]) will be able to reach potential spawning areas in Massapequa Lake from the existing lake discharge channel. The fish ladder will be installed at the westernmost spillway at the southern end of Massapequa Lake. This fish ladder will be attached to an existing spillway that is the property of Nassau County. Given this attachment, the fish ladder will become Nassau County property. Pursuant to the NRD CJ, Settling Defendants shall pay a total of \$131,500 to the Trustees to reimburse Past and Future Costs incurred and to be incurred by the Trustees in assessing damages to natural resources at the Site, overseeing and monitoring performance of the Restoration Project, and performance of operation, monitoring and maintenance of the Restoration Project once construction is complete.



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2. Summary of Agreement in Consent Judgment

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3

Description of Existing Site Conditions

Massapequa Lake is a 40-acre freshwater body located near the southern end of the Massapequa Preserve in the Town of Oyster Bay, Nassau County, New York (see Figure 1). The lake, a man-made impoundment fed by Massapequa Creek, is situated directly north of Merrick Road, a 5-lane highway. Two architectural stone and concrete dam structures, which discharge water from the lake, are located at the southern end of Massapequa Lake. The dams are stepped, with elevation changes of approximately 3 feet. The western spillway is curved and discharges into two box culverts beneath Merrick Road; the eastern spillway is rectangular and discharges into a single elliptical culvert. These discharges flow approximately one mile to South Oyster Bay and Long Island Sound via bulk-headed Lower Massapequa Creek.

The dams represent the upstream limit of tidal influence, which averages approximately 1.5 feet in amplitude near South Oyster Bay (NOAA, NYSDEC, USFWS 2005). The predicted maximum high tide and minimum low tide for 2005 were 1.9 feet and -0.4 foot, respectively, at the Biltmore Shores, South Oyster Bay gauging station (NOAA/NOS tide predictions Web site 2005).

Plan and section sketches of the western spillway dam are included on the attached drawings. Measurements of the dam were collected by Ecology and Environment Engineering, P.C. ("EEEEPC") on November 16, 2005, and the dam was surveyed on December 30, 2005. (See Survey at the Massapequa Dam attached.) The arc-shaped dam is approximately 30 feet wide (see photo on Figure 2). The service spillway is approximately 8 feet wide. At the service spillway, the discharge falls approximately 3 feet to a concrete bench. The bench slopes gently for approximately 18 feet until reaching a lip that drops vertically another 2.5 feet. The Merrick Road bridge, which consists of two box culverts, is approximately 26.5 feet from the centerline of the service spillway (see photo on Figure 2).



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3. Description of Existing Site Conditions

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Figure 1
Fish Passage Project Area
Massapequa Lake, Oyster Bay
Nassau County, New York

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles





3. Description of Existing Site Conditions

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3. Description of Existing Site Conditions

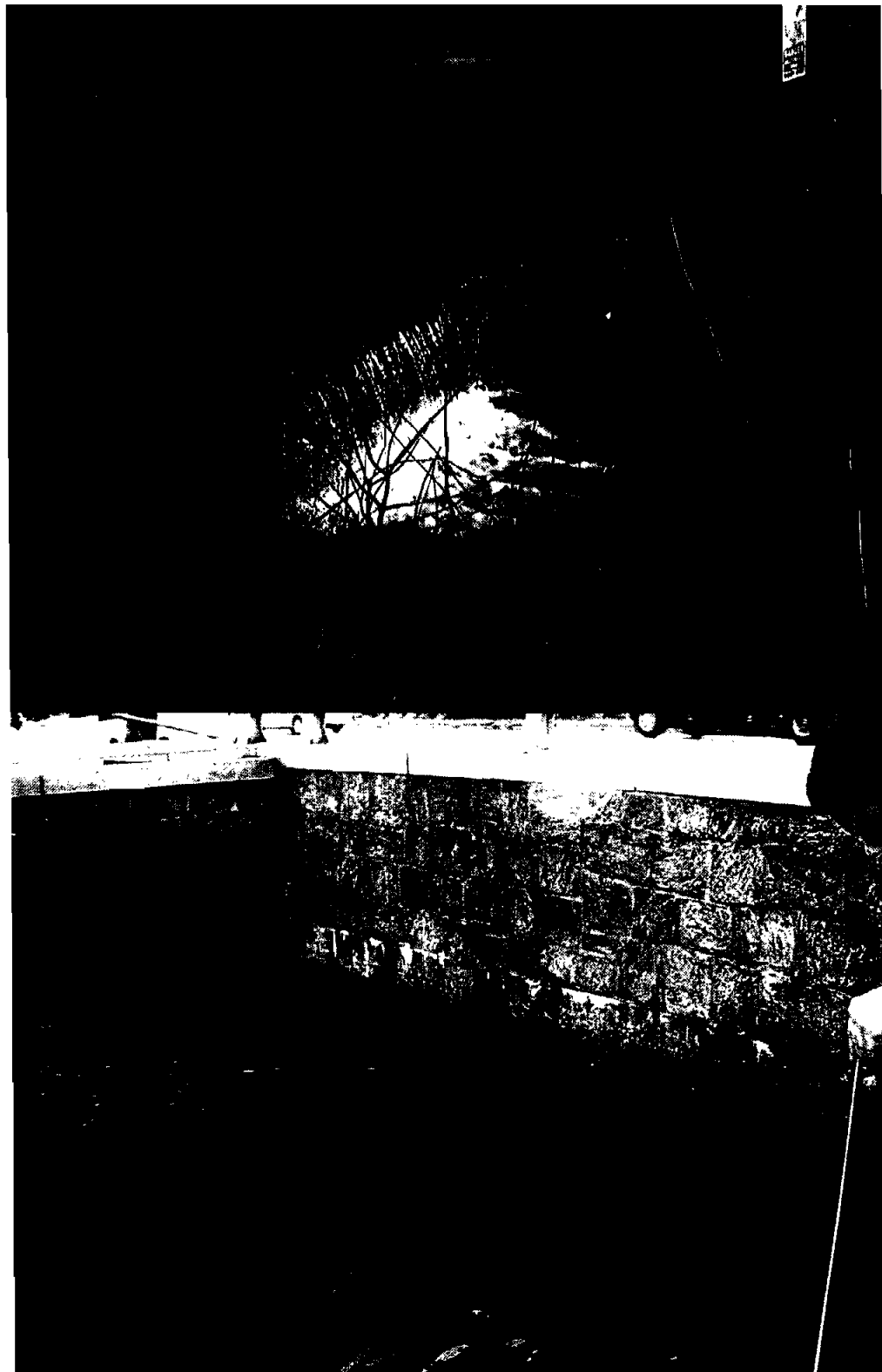


Figure 2 Photographs of Western Spillway at Massapequa Lake and Box Culverts at Merrick Road Bridge



3. Description of Existing Site Conditions

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4

Design Considerations

Although fish ladders are not a new technology, universally accepted design guidelines are not available. EEEPC conducted a review of scientific literature and fishway guidelines to develop the basis of design for the Massapequa Lake site. The following design parameters were reviewed: target species/seasonal use, fish ladder slope, depth of water, jumping heights, and other considerations.

4.1 Target Species/Seasonal Use

Two fish—the blueback herring and the alewife—have been identified as target species. The blueback herring is an anadromous species that moves into larger streams to spawn. Blueback herring average 10 to 12 inches in length, and have a maximum length of approximately 15 inches (Smith 1985). The body depth is relatively slender; a 13.5-inch herring is about 3 inches deep (Bigelow and Schroeder 1953).

The blueback herring is known to travel farther inland than other river herrings (Smith 1985), and it tends to spawn in flowing water conditions. They have been documented to travel upstream through locks in the Hudson River and Mohawk River drainage areas. The spawning runs occur in springtime, beginning in mid-to late April when water temperatures reach 39° to 48° Fahrenheit (F), and spawning begins when temperatures reached 57°F (Loesch and Lund 1977).

The alewife also is an anadromous species that spawns in large rivers and streams. Alewives are very difficult to distinguish from blueback herring, barring an internal body examination; alewives are somewhat larger, although there is much overlap in the size of the two species. Alewives attain a maximum length of approximately 15 inches (Smith 1985). The body depth of an alewife is greater than that of a blueback herring, with a 13.5-inch alewife having an approximately 4-inch body depth (Bigelow and Schroeder 1953).

Alewives tend to spawn in slack water conditions. Spawning runs in the Hudson River occur in March and April (Smith 1985). When found in the same river system, alewives tend to spawn 3 to 4 weeks earlier than blueback herring. Alewives begin spawning in Massachusetts streams when water temperatures reach 51°F (Bigelow and Schroeder 1953).



4. Design Considerations

Based on available information regarding the spawning preferences of the target species, the Massapequa fish ladder will be designed to provide passage for adult blueback herring and alewives to reach spawning grounds in the spring of each year, approximately March and April. For juvenile out-migration in the fall, it is assumed that as flows spill over the dam, juvenile herring and alewife would successfully migrate out of the Massapequa Lake system. The proposed fish ladder would also be available for use during the out-migration.

4.2 Fish Ladder Slope

Alaskan steeppass ladders are designed to provide passage for fish in conditions with steep (25% to 35%) slopes (OTA 1995). The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife indicates that Alaskan steeppass ladders are typically designed to provide fish passage at about 25% slope (WDFW 2000). Therefore, the basis of design for the Massapequa Lake fish ladder will be a maximum slope of 25%.

4.3 Depth of Water

Based on an approximately 3-inch body depth for the blueback herring and an approximately 4-inch body depth for the alewife (Bigelow and Schroeder 1953), it is assumed that a minimum of 6 inches of water must flow through the fish ladder during March and April, when the ladder is to provide spawning adults access to Massapequa Lake.

4.4 Other Considerations

The basis of design for the fish entrance invert (i.e., bottom of the fish ladder) will be below the average low-tide line, if possible.

The following additional design considerations were made for the dam and the bridge:

- The fish ladder will be designed so as to not interfere with the service spillway of the dam (i.e., notching and/or attachment will take place at the auxiliary spillway);
- Construction within the box culverts will be avoided; and
- The water level in the lake is assumed to continue to be maintained at or near its current level.

The parties to the NRD CJ believe that this fish ladder is consistent with Nassau County's goals for restoration of the Massapequa Preserve as indicated in the EIS for the *Massapequa Preserve Streamflow Augmentation and Pond Restoration*. It should be noted that construction of a single fish ladder does not guarantee the successful return of the target fish to Massapequa Lake. Success will depend on providing adequate access (to be provided via fish ladders such as the one dis-



4. Design Considerations

cussed herein) and improvements to habitat (as proposed by Nassau County in the EIS).



4. Design Considerations

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5

Proposed Plan

The conceptual design of the fish ladder is shown on Sheet 2 of the drawings. The top of the ladder will be placed approximately one foot from the eastern edge of the service spillway. In order to provide adequate water for the fish ladder, the dam will be notched to a depth of approximately 1.5 feet and a width of 2 feet. The fish ladder will be mounted to the dam with an angle adapter in accordance with the manufacturer's details. A removable coarse bar rack will be mounted at the upstream end of the fishway to exclude larger pieces of trash and debris.

The fish ladder will descend from the notched dam to approximately 6 feet beyond the bench lip. The fish ladder entrance invert will be below the average low-tide line, if possible. An entrance channel will be added to the downstream end of the steep pass sections. The entrance channel will have stoplog slots for flow control and to provide an attraction jet. The ladder will be fastened to the bench just upstream of the bench lip. Stoplogs or blocks may be needed at the downstream edge of the bench to avoid having river herring pass the entrance and be dead-ended at the base of the spillway. The total length of the fish ladder will be approximately 22 feet, and the ladder will not extend inside the box culverts. In the conceptual design shown on Sheet 2, the fish ladder slope is 9%, well below the design basis maximum of 25%.



5. Proposed Plan

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6

Next Steps and Schedule

Pursuant to the NRD CJ, not later than 30 days after the CJ is entered, the Settling Defendants will submit a final design to the Trustees for review and approval. This final design will include, but not be limited to, final drawings, based on surveyor measurements, specifications for the installation, and an updated design report.



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6. Next Step and Schedules

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7

Permit Requirements

Modification of the dam will require approval and permits from NYSDEC's Dam Safety and Environmental Permits Offices.

A permit from Nassau County also will be necessary for work within the Massapequa Preserve. As this project is considered an improvement to the Massapequa Preserve ecosystem, it is anticipated the necessary permit(s) for temporary work or permanent installations and monitoring will be issued.

The Stage IA Archaeological Survey completed as part of the Massapequa Preserve EIS process did not indicate any potential concerns over installing a fish ladder on the Massapequa Lake dam.

The New York State Department of State has reviewed the project for consistency with the Coastal Zone Management Act.



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7. Permit Requirements

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8

References

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- Loesch, J.G. and W.A. Lund. 1977. A contribution to the life history of the blue-back herring, *Alosa aestivalis*, *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society*. 106(6): 583-589.
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- Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). 2000. *Draft Fishway Guidelines for Washington State*. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Olympia, Washington, April 25, 2000.



8. References

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A

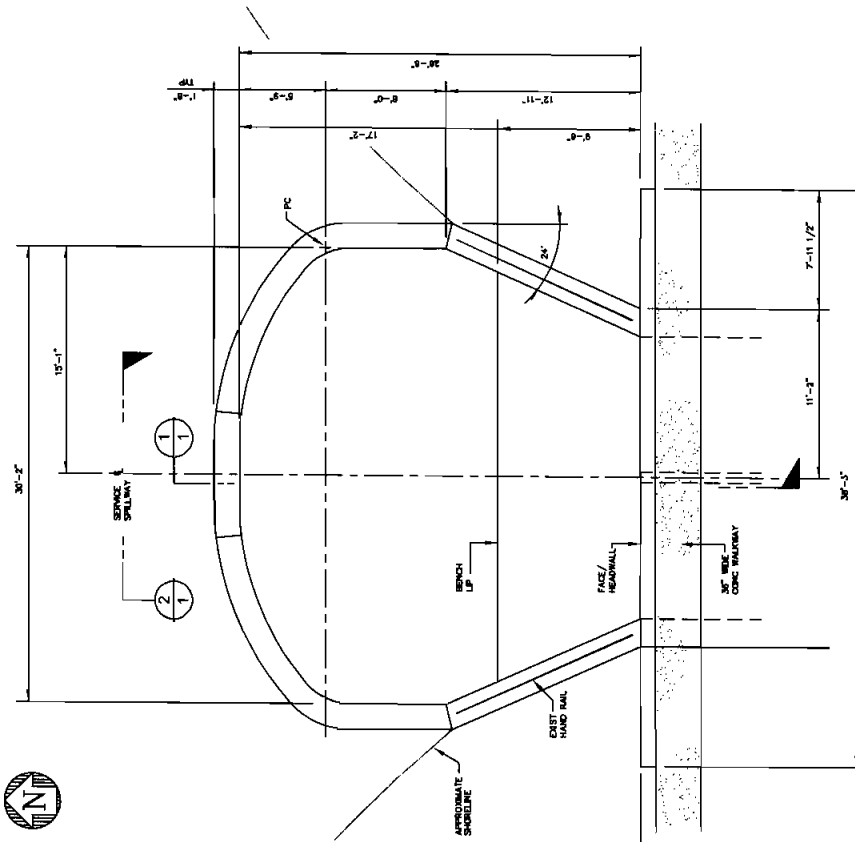
Construction Size Drawings



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A. Oversize Drawings

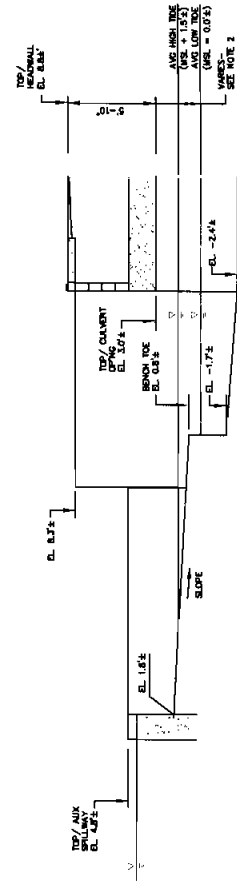
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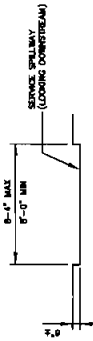
DAM PLAN - EXISTING
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

GENERAL NOTES:

1. ALL DIMENSIONAL INFORMATION SHOWN ON THIS DRAWING IS BASED ON FIELD INFORMATION AND MUST BE VERIFIED PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF WORK AT THE INSTALLATION.
2. HIGH TIDE = > 1.5' ABOVE MEAN SEA LEVEL (MSP-JAN02).



SECTION 1
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



SECTION 2
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

DRAFT
DO NOT USE FOR CONSTRUCTION
DATE: 12/10/05 DESIGNED BY: JLM

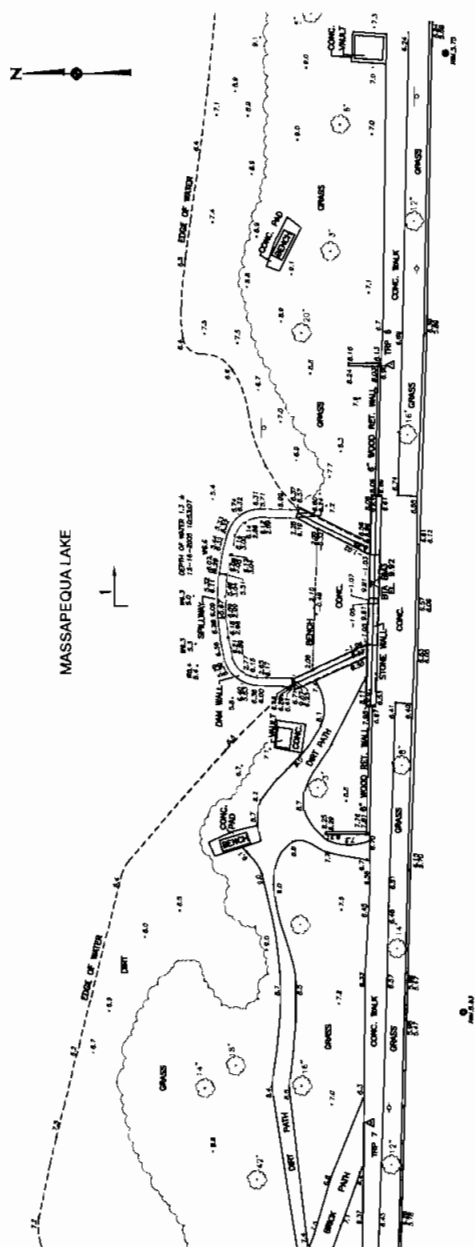
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engineering, p.c.**

NO.	DATE	BY	APP'D	DESCRIPTION
1	11/10/05	JLM		DAM 30% DESIGN CONCEPTUAL - ISSUED FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT
2	12/10/05	JLM		DAM 30% DESIGN CONCEPTUAL - ISSUED FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT

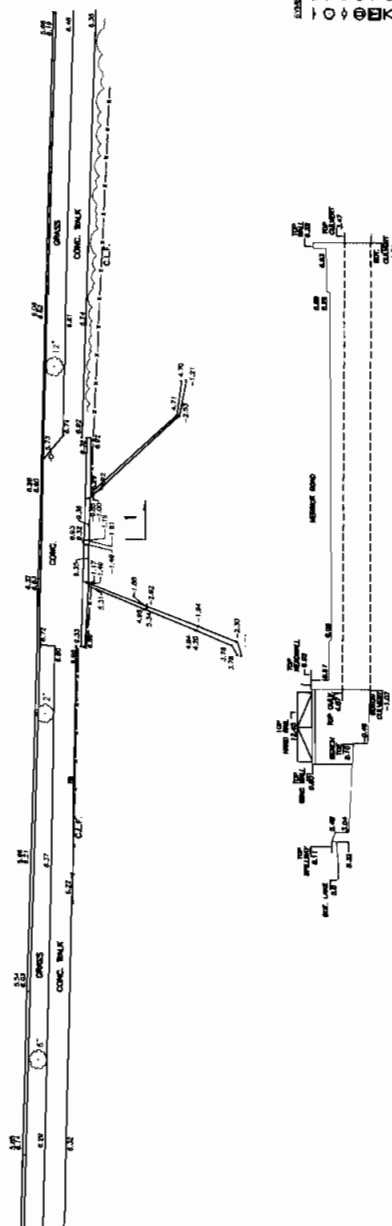
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DATE NOTED	DATE DESIGNED	DATE CHECKED	DATE APPROVED
AS NOTED	11/10/05	12/10/05	12/10/05

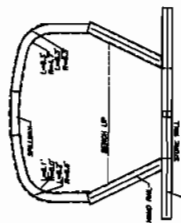
PROJECT NO.	LIBERTY PRP GROUP
PROJECT NAME	EXISTING DAM - PLAN AND SECTION
PROJECT LOCATION	LIBERTY PRP GROUP
PROJECT DATE	12/10/05
PROJECT SHEET	1 of 2



MERRICK ROAD



CENTER LINE PROFILE 1-1



DAM GEOMETRY

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